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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR/Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Resistance Potential and Unrest in the USSR 2. Resistance in Poland	DATE DISTR.	22 June 1955
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Comments:

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1. [] mail to and from the Soviet Union, whether written by civilian or military personnel, is censored.
2. The deportations of the Crimean Tatars and the Chechen-Ingush occurred in late 1943 and early 1944.

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	EV	X#	ARMY	X#	NAVY	X#	AIR	X#	FBI	#	AEC	OCT	EV	X
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COUNTRY USSR/Poland

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1955

SUBJECT Resistance Potential and Unrest

NO. OF PAGES 5

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REFERENCES:

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In Poland

1.

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[redacted] service in Poland, the military personnel were restricted to their areas during the hours of darkness because of fear of anti-Soviet partisans. Further that the military personnel did not silhouette themselves against lighted windows because those who were foolish enough to do so were often shot at.

[redacted] "several" officers and EM [redacted] had been killed by partisans of the Polish underground. [redacted] no further information on this subject.

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In the USSR

2.

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[redacted] an organization called the "Black Cat" operated in the vicinity of Khabarovsk.

[redacted] a "Black Cat" organization [redacted] attacked members of the Soviet military forces and took only their documents;

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 2 -

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those persons who did not resist were never harmed.

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3. In 1953, several replacements who had taken basic training in the Caucasus, near Nakhichevan (N 39-15, E 45-25), arrived in Austria. These men claimed that they had served in a Soviet Army infantry unit near the USSR-Iran border. One man related an experience he had while he was on sentry duty on a bright moonlit night. While he stood watch near an ammunition shed, he noticed that his shadow was casting two heads. The sentry moved his body slightly forward to see what would happen to this interesting phenomenon and, at the same time, a man leaped down from the shed roof and fell on top of the sentry's fixed bayonet. The sentry called the sergeant of the guard and the attacker, who was dead, was identified as a local mountaineer. The sentry was rewarded with a 30-day leave to the USSR for his vigilance.

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4. Another soldier related that a sentry in the same unit had also received a 30-day leave as a reward for holding off a group of five mountaineers who were attacking an arms dump while the sentry was on duty; this sentry was reputed to have killed four of the five mountaineers, presumably armed with pistols, before help arrived.

Passive Resistance

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5.

- a. Factory workers attempted to avoid all political rallies and demonstrations and left their factories when these demonstrations were announced. Those who were unable to avoid these gatherings, attended only long enough to be counted as present and departed at the earliest opportunity.

- b. The young people in Moscow preferred to dance Western-style modern steps such as tangos, foxtrots, etc., instead of dancing the Communist Party-accepted waltzes and polkas. Source claimed that Western-style dancing could be seen in parades, demonstrations, and any other public gatherings where the crowds were expected to be exuberant; however, he added that these dances were probably preferred because it was possible to dance them in crowded places. Often during the pauses between dances at public balls, cries of "foks trot" and "tango" could be heard from the crowd.

- c. Other indications of passive resistance consisted of malingering at work, feigned illnesses, and other subterfuges.

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strikes in the USSR were impossible under the political system.

The only anti-regime expressions were anti-government anecdotes which were gleefully repeated by the population. These were not considered to be especially malicious but were regarded rather as the healthy criticism of a "free" people. Individuals made a hobby of collecting these anecdotes and could, if called upon, relate them for several hours.

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- 3 -

25X1

Approval of the Soviet Regime

6. [] the general feeling of persons in the USSR was one of gratitude toward the government; they were grateful to the government for defeating the Nazis and for protecting the USSR by maintaining a constant vigilance against "Western aggression and imperialistic encroachments from the Anglo-US bandits". Soviet youth was grateful to the regime for the opportunity of a higher education which was constantly propagandized by the Communist Party. [] the reason for most of this gratitude was the fact that the great mass of the people was abysmally ignorant of the "outside". 1

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Resentment Toward the Regime

7. [] practically all of the unhappiness in the USSR could be either directly or indirectly laid at the doorstep of the Communist Party.
8. [] the plight in which the workers of collective farms found themselves and [] their complaints are justified. Figuratively speaking, [] the Soviet Government is using these human beings as draft animals to sustain the false economy of the USSR. Some of the complaints of the kolkhozniki are: no freedom of movement, dawn-to-dusk labor all year with bare subsistence as a return, starvation, inadequate medical care, high taxation, and impossible production norms.
9. [] the position of the city dweller, such as the factory worker, is slightly better but still has many shortcomings. Some of the disadvantages are: the fact that a worker cannot voluntarily change his employment; he has no protection from being fired; non-specialists, such as common laborers, have no security in their employment; there are constant shortages of consumer goods and staples of life; and that an individual has to wait in line endlessly for everything. [] belonging to the Komsomol is attractive because the organization offers its members a certain degree of job protection and stability; however, among most of the rank-and-file laborers, there is considerable ill-will towards the Communist Party because unqualified people are often placed in key jobs merely because they belong to the Party.
10. [] the greater majority of the people in the USSR are completely unaware of their ill lot for two reasons. The first reason is because they are so busy with the time-consuming tasks of every day existence and the striving to make ends meet, they have no time for serious thinking and are willing to accept the Party's explanations for the cause of their plight. The other reason is that many persons in the USSR have no idea of what their life could be like. [] "it is impossible to miss what you never had".
11. [] the fundamental reason for failure of the Soviet system is that the laws in the USSR were designed to protect the government from the people instead of the other way around.

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- 4 -

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Censorship

12. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] there was no postal censorship in either civilian mail or 25X1
in personal military mail.

Aid to Allied Forces

13. [redacted] the actions of the Germans who invaded the 25X1
Soviet Union during World War II would greatly influence the
attitudes and actions of the Soviet population in the event of a
war with the US and its allies. [redacted] because Soviet 25X1
propaganda shows the "bestiality" of the US forces in Korea and
because of the Soviet accusations of bacteriological warfare,
many persons in the USSR think the US would behave as the Nazis
did and would follow an extermination policy in the Soviet Union.
14. [redacted] at the first onslaught of war, the entire popu- 25X1
lation of the USSR would back the Communist regime in "self-
defense" and that the Soviet soldier, in spite of his ignorance,
somewhat poor morale, lack of "necessities" by Western standards,
equipment, and seemingly poor organization, would fight fiercely
and well for the honor of the Motherland. Further, that most of
the population would join in the common effort with the possible
exception of a few minority groups and older peasants. However,
if the war lasted any length of time and the Soviet Government
could not give concrete evidence of "atrocities" and the US's
guilt as aggressors, some of the workers and peasants from the
kolkhozy might actively resist the war effort.
15. [redacted] the insurrection in either war or peace would 25X1
be fruitless because the government could easily and ruthlessly
destroy such opposition before it really got started. However,
if there was an uprising, [redacted] the most fertile spots 25X1
for such action would be in the minority areas of the Caucasus,
Ukraine, and Siberia. Any cooperation with the Great Russian
population would never be achieved through US-type propaganda but
rather would have to be accomplished through people such as he
who were obviously Russians and would be able to reach the "soul"
of the Russians. [redacted] the present propaganda issued by 25X1
US-sponsored organizations [redacted] no possibility of 25X1
reaching the Russian "soul" because the Westerner simply has no
meeting ground on which to influence Slavic thinking.

Anti-Semitism

16. [redacted] no incidents of violence against Jews in the 25X1
USSR but [redacted] rumors in Moscow that the Jews were natural 25X1
"speculators" and as such were against the Communist form of govern- 25X1
ment. [redacted]

17. [redacted] 25X1

Deportations

18. The only mass deportation of populations [redacted] was 25X1
that of the Crimean Tatars and the Chechen-Ingushy; [redacted] 25X1

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- 5 -



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these deportations occurred in 1946 and [redacted] these persons were probably sent to Siberia. [redacted] rumors of these deportations in Moscow [redacted] that these populations had actively supported the invading German forces.

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Religious Resistance

19.

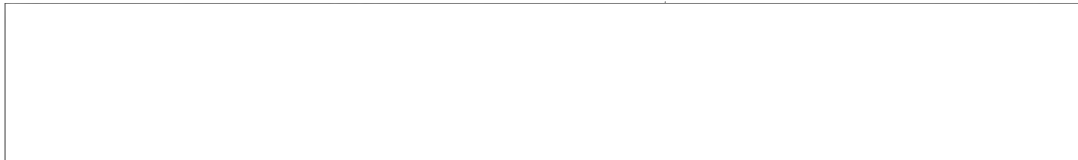


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[redacted] it was a possibility but that religion could not be considered a threat to the regime because only the older people supported the churches. Further, [redacted] the younger Soviet citizen was a professed atheist for material advantages and did not go to church because such attendance was political and professional suicide.

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